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Zari Saeedi

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Event Structure of Prepositional Nuclear Junctures in Persian: A Role & Reference Grammar Account

Zari Saeedi T.

School of Linguistics, Speech & Communication Sciences
Trinity College Dublin

Abstract

In the present research study an attempt has been made to analyze one group of complex predicates or nuclear junctures (NJs) in Persian (as an Indo-European language) in terms of its event attribute within the framework of Role and Reference Grammar (Van Valin & Lapolla 1997, Van Valin 2005). These complex predicates fuse with the prepositional phrases and the impoverished forms of the verb referred to as 'light verb' (Cattell 1984). In this study a distinction is made between predicative and non-predicative prepositions providing some examples along with schematizing their layered structure of the clause. To determine the verb class of the prepositional (P) light verb constructions (LVCs) the main five diagnostic tests are applied to a wide range of examples from our collected Persian data. It has emerged from the findings of this study that all the prepositional phrases in Persian prepositional nuclear junctures are of locative type and the light verbs in these constructions belong to the phase class of verbs i.e. the continuative, terminative, and resultative event phases.

1. Types of Preposition

In Modern Persian or Farsi, there are generally two types of prepositions: simple/bare as in (1a-b) and compound as in (1c) below. Simple or bare prepositions include such prepositions as:

- (1) a. *ændær* 'in', *æz* 'from', *ba* 'with', *bær* 'on', *bæraye* 'for', *bæhr* 'for', *be* 'to', *beyn* 'between', *bi* 'without', *joz* 'except', *næzd* 'with, by', *miyan* 'among', *piš* 'front', *pey* 'after', *ta* 'up to', and *dær* 'in'.

Some of the simple prepositions in Persian, as Mahootian (1997) also notes, take *ezafe* (the suffix *-e* or sometimes *-ye* is called *ezafe* in Persian and is the same as 'of' in English), which include:

- b. *bedun-e* 'without', *birun-e* 'outside', *jelow-ye* 'in front of', *næzdik-e* 'near', *miyan-e* or as pronounced in spoken Persian *miyun-e* 'between', *pæhlu-ye* 'by', *pošt-e* 'behind', *ru-ye* 'on', *tu-ye* 'in', and *zir-e* 'under'.

As noted by Shamisa (2000: 214), compound prepositions may be formed by combining prepositions, for example:

- c. *æz bæraye* 'because of' (Lit.: 'from for'), *æz bæhre* 'for' (Lit.: 'from for' *bæhre* is more formal than *bæraye*), *æz ruye* 'out of' (Lit.: 'from on'), *dær bareye* 'about' (Lit.: 'in about'), and *dær næzde* 'front, with' (Lit.: 'in with/by').

Prepositions can also refer to: a) the place or location (e.g., *dær xiyaban* 'in street'); b) the direction (e.g., *betæraf-e mædrese* 'towards school'); and c) the time (e.g., *qæbl æz mædrese* 'before school' (Lit.: before from school)). In Persian prepositional phrases

(PP) the preposition take a noun phrase as its argument and heads the PP; their canonical position is before the verb and after the direct object (Mahootian 1997) such as in (2) below:

- (2) Ali ketab-ra æz dust-æš gereft.
 Ali book-DOM from friend-his take.Past.3rd.Sg.
 'Ali took the book from his friend.'

In (2) above, the preposition *æz* 'from' takes the noun *dust* 'friend' as its argument and the whole prepositional phrase *æz dust-æš* 'from his friend' follows the direct object *ketab* 'book' preceding the verb of the sentence (*gereft* 'took'). The prepositional phrases can appear in other positions i.e. they can sometimes be moved to the right of the predicate of the sentence (especially for some prepositions such as the simple preposition *be* 'to', or the compound prepositions *tu-ye* 'in-Ezafe', *ru-ye* 'on-Ezafe'). Consider the sentence in (3) below:

- (3) Ali ræft be mædrese.
 Ali went to school
 'Ali went to school.'

As clear from (3) above, the prepositional phrase *be mædrese* 'to school' appears to the right of the verb (*ræft* 'went') and *mædrese* 'school' is in fact the noun taken by the preposition as its argument.

In RRG it is maintained that the predicative role of sentences is not always played by the verbal elements rather sometimes the noun, adjective, adverb or preposition predicates the ideas expressed in the statements. Thus, prepositions or prepositional phrases can be of a predicative type like other classes of words. That is, prepositions or prepositional phrases can be of two types i.e. predicative vs. non-predicative. In RRG those adpositions in the periphery of the clause are of former type (predicative) and those marking oblique core arguments belong to the latter class (non-predicative) (Van Valin & Lapolla 1997: 52, Van Valin 2005: 21). According to RRG, whether a preposition is predicative or non-predicative basically depends on which verb it appears with i.e. the English preposition '*from*', for instance, is non-predicative when it appears with the verb '*take*', licensing a source argument, (for example: Sally took the book from the boy) while it is predicative with a verb like '*die*' (for example: She died from malaria) and its semantic argument is treated as a core argument structurally with the NUC and PRED nodes dominating the preposition (Van Valin & Lapolla 1997, Van Valin 2005).

Another form of predicative prepositional phrases is where a copula accompanies this class of words as in 'the book is on the table' i.e. in RRG it is postulated that in these constructions the copula is a grammatical word dominated with the NUC node and the prepositional phrase bears the predicative function (presented with PRED node) of the whole sentence. In (4) and Figure (1) below the logical structure and the layered structure of the clause (LSC) of a similar example in Persian are presented. As clear from this Figure, the main CORE of the sentence is followed by NP, PP (prepositional phrase) and NUC which, according to RRG, is the copula or the grammatical nuclus/verb of the sentence and, in fact, does not have a predicating role (i.e. it is not followed by PRED node). The PP node is in turn followed by CORE_P (the subscripted _P before this node or other nodes in this Figure indicates that this CORE belongs to the

prepositional phrase and is not the main CORE of the sentence) which dominates the NP (*miz* 'table') and the preposition *ruye* 'on' as the predicate of the whole proposition. The CORE_P node is followed by NUC_P and the NP. In fact, the preposition *ruye* 'on' along with the NP *miz* 'table' predicate the whole sentence and the copula *æst* 'is', as pointed out before, is just a grammatical word. In the languages where copula is not used in the examples like the sentence in (4) this predicative role of the preposition is even highlighted more. As shown in Figure (1), in Persian the use of copula with the predicative prepositions is similar to English i.e. the copula *æst* 'is' is a grammatical word (NUC) without being followed by PRED node. In other words, the main predicative function of the sentence is borne by the prepositional phrase or, indeed, the preposition (P).

- (4) *ketab ruye miz æst.*
 book on table is
 'The book is on the table.'

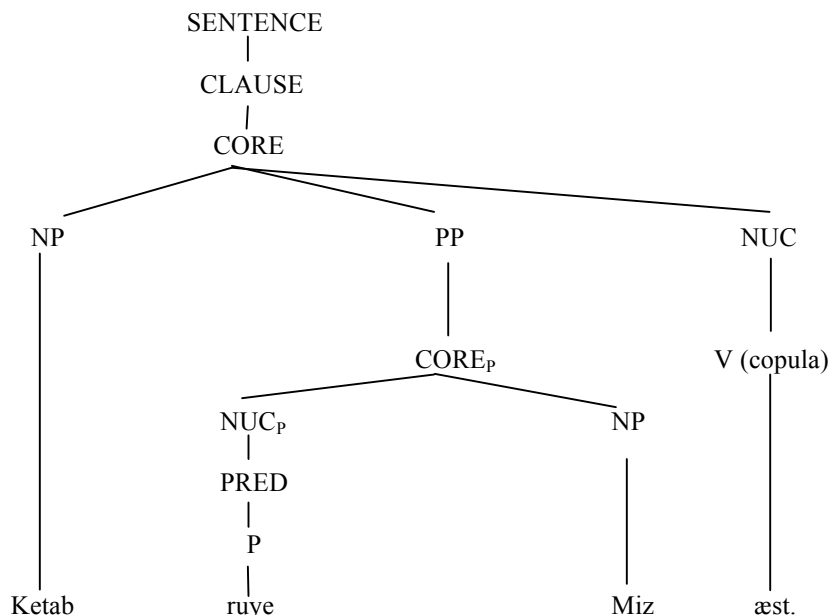


Figure 1: LSC of a copula/prepositional predicate in a Persian sentence

In RRG, three types of prepositions (prepositional phrases) are analyzed following Jolly (1991, 1993) (Van Valin & Lapolla 1997). The first type of prepositions is 'adjunct-marking non-predicative prepositions' as in 'Mary gave the book to John' where 'to John' is an argument (ARG) of the sentence followed by the preposition 'to' and the NP 'John' which have no predicating function. The second type is adjunct predicative prepositions as in 'Mary saw John after school' where the prepositional 'after school' is the PERIPHERY of the sentence followed by CORE which in turn is followed by NUC (PRED) node for the preposition 'after' and the ARG (NP) node for 'school'. That is, the preposition 'after' is indeed part of the predicate structure of the whole proposition. Finally, the third type is argument-adjunct predicative prepositions as in 'Yulanda put the book in the box' (c.f. Van Valin & Lapolla 1997: 162) where 'in the box' is AAJ (Argument Adjunct) followed by PP and CORE nodes respectively. This CORE node in turn is followed by NUC (PRED) node for the preposition 'in' and ARG (NP) for 'the box'. In this latter type of prepositions the predicative function and the semantic structure of the verb 'put' is fulfilled with the preposition 'in' which is a predicative

adjunct. That is, if the preposition 'in' is omitted as '*Yulanda put the book ... the box*' the semantic architecture of the sentence (for the intended meaning) is damaged. In other words, in this type of preposition (argument-adjunct predicative preposition), unlike the second type (adjunct predicative preposition), the prepositional phrase is not the periphery rather it is an adjunct argument of the main CORE and the meaning of the sentence is not complete without the prepositional phrase (Van Valin & Lapolla 1997).

Persian prepositional LVCs where a light verbal element combines with a prepositional phrase to form nuclear junctures are similar to the third type of prepositions focused in RRG analysis i.e. argument-adjunct predicative prepositions. In fact, in the prepositional LVCs in Persian the meaning of the verb and the sentence is not complete without the prepositional phrase. The important point to bear in mind here is that in Persian LVCs the two predicative parts (the verbal element and the predicative prepositional phrase) form a nuclear juncture (NJ) i.e. the NUC node is followed by two NUC nodes being also followed by two PRED nodes one of which is the light verbal element and the other one is the prepositional phrase. That is, in Persian sentences like (5) below the predicative role of the sentence is played with the combination of the preverbal (prepositional phrase) and the verbal elements:

- (5) *Ali æz donya ræft.*
 Ali from world go.Past.3rd.Sg.
 'Ali passed away.'

As shown above, in (5) *æz donya ræft* 'passed away' (Lit.: 'from world went') is the prepositional NJ i.e. *ræft* 'went' is the light verb (as mentioned before, it is called light verb since the semantic load of the sentence is not complete with the verbal element alone i.e. it has a light predicating role) and *æz donya* 'from world' is the prepositional phrase with *æz* 'from' as the preposition and *donya* 'world' as the argument (NP) of the prepositional phrase. In fact, the combination of the two verbal and non-verbal elements predicates the whole sentence and the omission of the preposition from the sentence (*Ali ... donya ræft* 'Ali ... world went') damages the semantic parameter of the sentence. The layered structure of the clause of the example in (5) is presented in Figure (2) below. (Note that in the older version of RRG i.e. Van Valin and Lapolla (1997), all the NPs are preceded by ARG node and all the predicative prepositional phrases are preceded by AAJ (argument adjunct), which are eliminated in Van Valin 2005.)

From our data it emerges that out of all the prepositions listed in (1a-c) at the beginning of this section only some of them can combine with light verbs to make prepositional LVCs. Additionally, out of all the light verbs listed in Saeedi (2009a) only some can join the prepositional phrases to form prepositional NJs. A more detailed discussion of all these LVCs are presented in section (2) below.

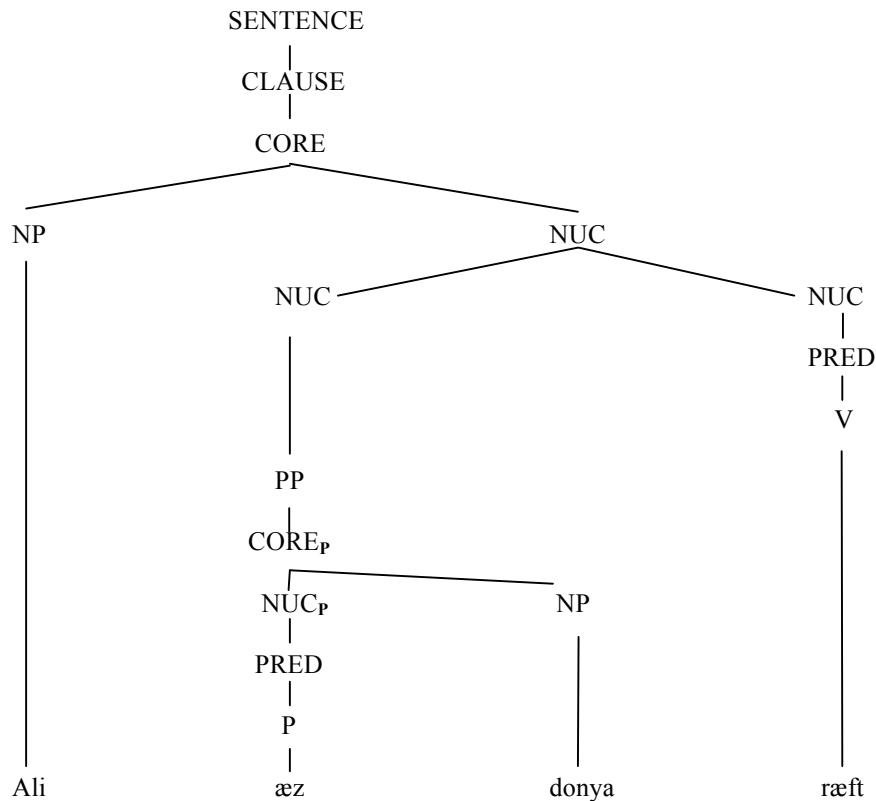


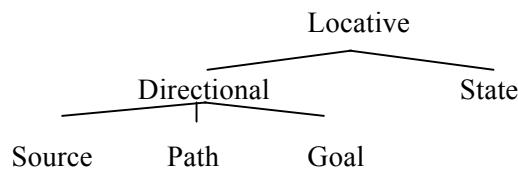
Figure 2: LSC for a prepositional/light verbal nuclear juncture in Persian

2. Discussion

As presented above in the layered structure of the clause for the prepositional nuclear junctures, there are usually three elements in the prepositional LVCs, which fill the three positions in these constructions. The first (initial) position is filled by a preposition, the second (middle) by another preposition, or a noun as complement, and the third position by a light verb. Examining the data of the present study, it became clear that out of the list of the Persian prepositions presented at the beginning of this paper six prepositions can appear in the initial position, namely, *æz* 'from', *ba* 'with', *bær* 'on/over', *be* 'to', *bi* 'without', and *dær* 'in'. There are also some limited number of prepositions such as *bær* 'on/over', *beyn* 'between', *piš* 'before', and *miyan* 'among', that appear in the second or middle position in the prepositional LVCs. In fact, not all the Persian prepositions have the capability of fusing with the light verbs to form prepositional nuclear junctures. Furthermore, the prepositions that appear in the initial position are basically of two groups i.e. the first group are those prepositions that can join either another preposition or a noun along with an LV to make a prepositional LVC, such as *æz* 'from', *be* 'to', and *dær* 'in'; the second group comprises those adpositions that can fuse with a noun (not another preposition) and an LV to construct a prepositional/light verbal construction, such as *ba* 'with', *bær* 'on/over', and *bi* 'without'.

One of the interesting findings of this study is that all the prepositions in Persian nuclear junctures belong to the LOCATIVE class of prepositions. Locative, also called spatial, prepositions refer to the location of an object, activity, or event. Following

Bjerre (2003), we have categorized these prepositions into directional and state, as schematized below.



Our investigation has revealed that the prepositions in the first group (mentioned above) capable of combining with either a noun or another preposition, namely, *æz* 'from', *be* 'to', and *dær* 'in' belong to either state or directional locative prepositions where the former refers to the stative location of entities and the latter to the directional relation that exist between the source or beginning of event, the path or process, and the goal or endpoint. In fact, the preposition *æz* 'from' denotes the source, *be* 'to' marks the goal, and *dær* 'in' shows the stative location. However, all the prepositions in the first group i.e. *ba* 'with', *bær* 'on/over', and *bi* 'without', which can combine with or be followed by a noun (not a preposition) belong to the state locative prepositions denoting the stative location of entities. In the case of *bi* 'without' it should be noted that this preposition, unlike *ba* 'with', denotes the state where something is absent when it is combined with a noun in prepositional phrase as in *bi deqqæt* 'without care' or 'careless'. We need to recall that all the prepositions in the first group discussed above appear in the initial position in the prepositional phrase of the Persian NJs.

With regard to the prepositions that appear in the second or middle position in Persian prepositional NJs, namely, *bær* 'on/over', *piš* 'front/before', *beyn* 'between', and *miyan* 'among' it has emerged that the first two prepositions (*bær* & *piš*) belong to the state locative and the last two (*beyn* & *miyan*) to the path directional locative prepositions. The finding regarding the type of the prepositions in the prepositional phrase of the Persian LVCs can be summarized in the following Table (1).

A. Initial Position Preposition	Locative Preposition Type
1. Combined with either another preposition or a noun:	
a. <i>æz</i> 'from' →	-Source (directional)
b. <i>be</i> 'to' →	-Goal (directional)
c. <i>dær</i> 'in' →	-Stative location (state)
2. Combined with a noun (not another preposition):	
a. <i>ba</i> 'with' →	-Stative location (state)
b. <i>bær</i> 'on/over' →	-Stative location (state)
c. <i>bi</i> 'without' →	-Stative location (state)
B. Second or Middle Position P.	
a. <i>bær</i> 'on/over' →	-Stative location (state)
b. <i>piš</i> 'front/before' →	-Stative location (state)
c. <i>beyn</i> 'between' →	-Path (directional)
d. <i>miyan</i> 'among' →	-Path (directional)

Table 1; Locative preposition types in Persian prepositional NJ

The effect of these locative/spatial prepositions in the prepositional light verb constructions will be discussed in more detail later in this chapter (section (3)).

In terms of the nominal element combined with different types of locative prepositions it should be noted that abstract nouns are more common than concrete ones. In general, there were thirty four adpositional LVCs analyzed in this paper out of which the most

productive prepositions are *æz* 'from' and *be* 'to' each with eleven occurrences or NJ and the least productive ones are *ba* 'with', *bær* 'on/over', and *bi* 'without' each with two LVCs. And the preposition *dær* 'in' stands in the middle with six occurrences.

With regard to the light verbs capable of combining with adpositional phrases to form prepositional NJs it should be mentioned that the most common light verbs showing this capability are *šodæn* 'become', *kærdæn* 'make', *daštæn* 'have', *ræftæn* 'go', *bordæn* 'take/carry', *gereftæn* 'take', *dadæn* 'give', *amædæn* 'come', *aværdæn* 'bring', *xordæn* 'eat', *zædæn* 'hit/strike', and *kešidæn* 'pull'. Among these light verbs the most productive ones with respect to the number of occurrences in our data are *bordæn* 'take/carry', *daštæn* 'have', and *gereftæn* 'take' each with five NJs; the least productive ones are *dadæn* 'give', *xordæn* 'eat', *zædæn* 'hit/strike', and *kešidæn* 'pull' each with one construction.

The findings of the diagnostic tests applied to the prepositional NJs (numbered as 1-34 in Table (2)) examined in this study including the verb class and the logical structure are presented in Table (2) below:

Preposition	Verb Class	prepositional NJ (infinitive form)	Logical Structure (LS)
æz + Prep. + LV æz bær + LV	Accom.	1-æz bær šodæn (Lit.: 'from on/over become') 'memorize'	BECOMEæz bær šodæn' (x)
		2-æz bær kærðæn (Lit.: 'from on/over make') 'memorize'	BECOMEæz bær kærðæn' (x, y)
	Achiev.	3-æz bær daštæn (Lit.: 'from on/over have') 'know by heart'	INGRæz bær daštæn' (x, y)
æz beyn + LV	Accom.	4-æz beyn ræftæn (Lit.: 'from between go') 'be wiped out'	BECOMEæz beyn ræftæn' (x)
		5-æz beyn bordæn (Lit.: 'from between take/carry') 'wipe out'	BECOMEæz beyn bordæn' (x, y)
æz piš + LV	Achiev.	6-æz piš bordæn (Lit.: 'from front take/carry') 'manage'	INGRæz piš bordæn' (x, y)
æz miyan + LV	Accom.	7-æz miyan bordæn (Lit.: 'from among take/carry') 'wipe out'	BECOMEæz miyan bordæn' (x, y)
æz + NP + LV	Achiev.	8-æz dæst ræftæn (Lit.: 'from hand go') 'be lost'	INGRæz dæst ræftæn' (x)
		9-æz huš ræftæn (Lit.: 'from consciousness go') 'lose consciousness'	INGRæz huš ræftæn' (x)
		10-æz yad bordæn (Lit.: 'from remembrance take/carry') 'forget'	INGRæz yad bordæn' (x, y)
		11-æz sær gereftæn (Lit.: 'from head take') 'do all over again'	INGRæz sær gereftæn' (x, y)
ba + NP + LV		12-ba xæbær šodæn (Lit.: 'with news become') 'become informed'	INGRba xæbær šodæn' (x)
		13-ba xæbær kærðæn (L.: 'with news make') 'inform'	INGRba xæbær kærðæn' (x, y)
bær + NP + LV	Accom.	14-bær bad ræftæn (Lit.: 'on/over wind go') 'be squandered'	BECOMEbær bad ræftæn' (x)

Table 2: LS of the Persian Prepositional/Light Verbal NJs

Preposition	Verb Class	prepositional NJ (infinitive form)	Logical Structure (LS)
bær + NP + LV	Achiev.	15-bær bad dadæn (Lit.: 'on/over wind give') 'squander'	BECOMEbær bad dadæn' (x, y)
be + NP + LV		16-be dæst amædæn (Lit.: 'to hand come') 'be obtained'	INGRbe dæst amædæn' (x)
		17-be huš amædæn (Lit.: 'to consciousness come') 'gain consciousness'	INGRbe huš amædæn' (x)
	Achiev.	18-be yad aværdæn (Lit.: 'to remembrance bring') 'remember'	INGRbe yad aværdæn' (x, y)
		19-be yad daštæn (Lit.: 'to remembrance have') 'remember'	INGRbe yad daštæn' (x, y)
	Accom.	20-be kar bordæn (Lit.: 'to work take/carry') 'use'	BECOMEbe kar bordæn' (x, y)
		21-be kar gereftæn (Lit.: 'to work take') 'use'	BECOMEbe kar gereftæn' (x, y)
		22-be pa kærdæn (Lit.: 'to foot make') 'put on/wear (on the foot)'	BECOMEbe pa kærdæn' (x, y)
	Achiev.	23-be dærd xordæn (Lit.: 'to pain eat') 'be useful'	INGRbe dærd xordæn' (x)
		24-be jib zædæn (Lit.: 'to pocket hit/strike') 'pocket'	INGRbe jib zædæn' (x, y)
be + Prep. + LV	Accom.	25-be (xak væ) xun kešidæn (Lit.: 'to (soil and) blood pull') 'kill'	BECOMEbe (xak væ) xun kešidæn' (x, y)
bi + NP + LV	Achiev.	26-be miyan aværdæn (Lit.: 'to among bring') 'broach/bring up'	INGRbe miyan aværdæn' (x, y)
		27-bi hes šodæn (Lit.: 'without feeling become') 'become numb/anesthetized'	INGRbi hes šodæn' (x)
		28-bi hes kærdæn (Lit.: 'without feeling make') 'make numb/anesthetize'	INGRbi hes kærdæn' (x, y)
dær+Prep +LV		29-dær bær daštæn (Lit.: 'in on/over have') 'incur'	INGRdær bær daštæn' (x, y)
dær bær + LV	Accom.	30-dær bær gereftæn (Lit.: 'in on/over take') 'surround'	BECOMEdær bær gereftæn' (x, y)

Table 2 (Cont.): LS of the Persian Prepositional/Light Verbal NJs

Preposition	Verb Class	prepositional NJ (infinitive form)	Logical Structure (LS)
<i>dær + NP + LV</i>	Achiev.	31- <i>dær dæst daštæn</i> (Lit.: ' <i>in hand have</i> ') ' <i>have/exercise authority over</i> ' 32- <i>dær extiyar daštæn</i> (Lit.: ' <i>in authority have</i> ') ' <i>have/exercise authority over</i> ' 33- <i>dær dæst gereftæn</i> (Lit.: ' <i>in hand take</i> ') ' <i>take charge of</i> ' 34- <i>dær extiyar gereftæn</i> (Lit.: ' <i>in authority take</i> ') ' <i>take charge of</i> '	<i>INGRdær dæst daštæn'</i> (x, y) <i>INGRdær extiyar daštæn'</i> (x, y) <i>INGRdær dæst gereftæn'</i> (x, y) <i>INGRdær extiyar gereftæn'</i> (x, y)

Table 2 (Cont.): LS of the Persian Prepositional/Light Verbal NJs

In terms of aspectual properties, it should be stated that even though our study is not based on corpus-oriented generalizations and we do not intend to provide any frequency references, we sometimes refer to the number of occurrences as an indicator of the commonality of some construction types. With regard to the prepositional LVCs analyzed in this chapter it is observed that out of the thirty four adpositional NJs examined in this chapter twenty two belong to the Achievement verb class and twelve to the accomplishment type i.e. majority of the prepositional LVCs in our collected data are of achievement type bearing such features as [-static], [+telic], and [+punctual] with the logical structure INGR **predicate'** (x) or (x, y). In fact, no NJs were found in our data with state or activity verb class.

Also, by taking a careful look at Table (2) it becomes clear that the verb class of the prepositional light verbal constructions is not always dependent on the aspectual properties of the verbal elements. That is, as with other types of Persian LVCs discussed in Saeedi (2009a) the verb is not the only determining factor in characterizing the verb class of the adpositional or prepositional constructions. The following section provides a detailed discussion of the event attributes and structure of the prepositional nuclear junctures.

3. Event Structure of Prepositional NJs

Our investigation of the prepositional LVCs has revealed that the light verbs fusing with the prepositional phrases belong to the 'phase' class of verbs as shown in the following Table. As is clear from the Table, the light verbs occurring in the prepositional LVCs belong to the phase group of verbs, which is compatible with the adjectival type of Persian nuclear junctures (Saeedi 2009b). The only exception to the above list is the light verb *daštæn* 'have' which denotes state or attribute and is in fact a non-phase verb i.e. unlike the phase light verbs, does not refer to particular phases of an event demonstrated in Figure (3) below. In this Figure (3) some of Engerer's (2007) terminology (ingressive for start, continuative for process, and terminative for endpoint) has been used to schematize different internal phases of an event.

Light Verb	LVs' Phase Features
<i>šodæn</i> 'become'	Result
<i>kærdæn</i> 'make'	Process
<i>dadæn</i> 'give'	Result: $x, y \rightarrow z$: endpoint, RRG 3 place PRED analysis
<i>zædæn</i> 'hit/strike'	Continue, process/start, process
<i>gereftæn</i> 'take/catch'	Endpoint
<i>kešidæn</i> 'pull'	Process
<i>xordæn</i> 'eat'	Process
<i>amædæn</i> 'come'	Process ←
<i>ræftæn</i> 'go'	Process →
<i>aværdæn</i> 'bring'	Process: 'Do' activity, RRG 3 place PRED analysis
<i>bordæn</i> 'take/carry'	Process
<i>daštæn</i> 'have'	Attribute/State: Non-phase

Table 3 Feature of LVs as 'phase' verbs in prepositional NJs

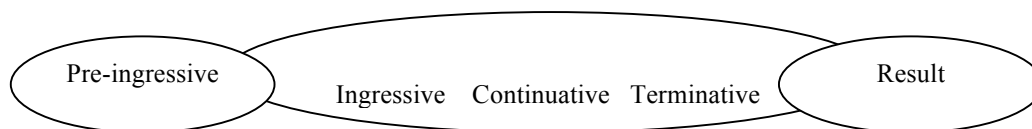


Figure 3: Phases of an event

The light verbs capable of fusing with the prepositional phrases in Persian refer to the continuative (process), terminative (endpoint), or result (resultative) phases of an event, as presented in Table (3). Interestingly, this parallels the findings with the nominal, adjectival and adverbial NJs (Saeedi 2009a). In general most of the verbs in Persian prepositional LVCs belong to the phase type and there are just a few non-phase verbs in these constructions. The same phenomenon takes place in Toratani's (2002) study on Japanese compound (complex) verb constructions, where majority of verbs occurring in these constructions belong to phase verbs and there are just a few non-phase verbs. In Toratani's (2002) study, only such verbs as *sugi* 'exceed' and *kane* 'combine something with' belong to the non-phase verb class while there are at least seven phase verbs appearing in the compound verb constructions in Japanese.

As mentioned above, with the exception noted, the light verbs in the prepositional LVCs refer to a particular phase of an event. Consider the examples in Table (4) where the verbal element is the same in each pair of the prepositional NJs and the first LVC in each pair is formed with the prepositional compound (two prepositions) while the second is made with a preposition and a noun. The light verb in the first (a, a') pair i.e. *šodæn* 'become' refers to the result (resultative) phase of the events while the preposition-preposition combination (*æz bæer* 'from on/over') in (a) with the source (directional) locative preposition *æz* 'from' and the state locative preposition *bæer* 'on/over' implies the event type of 'memorizing'. That is, the combination of these two prepositions indicates that something has caused an entity (e.g., the thing is to be memorized) to move from a 'source' implied by *æz* 'from' as a locative source directional preposition and be placed 'on' a location (e.g., one's memory) implied by *bæer* 'on/over' as a locative stative location preposition. Additionally, the preposition-N combination (*ba xæbær* 'with news') in (a') implies 'with information' or 'being informed'. In other words, the preposition *ba* 'with' shows that the 'state' of something

exists and that 'something' is the noun following this preposition. It is a logical justification to claim that this is the reason why such prepositions as *ba* 'with' are followed by an N in the prepositional NJs and not another preposition since semantically they need a noun whose stative location is characterized by such prepositions.

Prepositional NJ	LV's Phase F.	Logical Structure
(a) -æz bær šodæn (Lit.: 'from on/over become') 'memorize' (a') -ba xæbær šodæn (Lit.: 'with news become') 'become informed'	Result	<i>BECOMEæz bær šodæn</i> ' (x) <i>INGRba xæbær šodæn</i> ' (x)
(b) -æz beyn ræftæn (Lit.: 'from between go') 'be wiped out' (b') -bær bad ræftæn (Lit.: 'on/over wind go') 'be squandered'	Process	<i>BECOMEæz beyn ræftæn</i> ' (x) <i>BECOMEbær bad ræftæn</i> ' (x)
(c) -æz miyan bordæn (Lit.: 'from among take/carry') 'wipe out' (c') -æz yad bordæn (Lit.: 'from remembrance take/carry') 'forget'	Process	<i>BECOMEæz miyan bordæn</i> ' (x, y) <i>INGRæz yad bordæn</i> ' (x, y)
(d) -be miyan aværdæn (Lit.: 'to among bring') 'broach/bring up' (d') -be yad aværdæn (Lit.: 'to remembrance bring') 'remember'	Process	<i>INGRbe miyan aværdæn</i> ' (x, y) <i>INGRbe yad aværdæn</i> ' (x, y)
(e) -dær bær gereftæn (Lit.: 'in on/over take') 'surround' (e') -dær dæst gereftæn (Lit.: 'in hand take') 'take charge of'	Endpoint	<i>BECOMEdær bær gereftæn</i> ' (x, y) <i>INGRdær dæst gereftæn</i> ' (x, y)

Table 4: LV's phase features as process, endpoint, & result in Persian prepositional NJs

In the second (b, b') (*ræftæn* 'go'), the third (c, c') (*bordæn* 'take/carry'), and the fourth (d, d') (*aværdæn* 'bring') pairs the light verbs refer to the continuative or process phase of events and the preverbal prepositional constructions provide the actual event type or attribute. In the second pair, for instance, the prepositional NJ in (b) with the locative source (directional) preposition *æz* 'from' and the locative path (directional) preposition *beyn* 'between' imply that something has been wiped from a source (denoted by the source preposition *æz* 'from') and the path '*beyn* 'between'. In fact, the whole juncture *æz beyn ræftæn* (using the gloss) means 'something goes from between' which means 'something is wiped out'. As clear here, the two prepositions provide the information regarding the event attribute and the LV refers to the process of the 'wiping out' event which takes place over a time span. As demonstrated in Table (4), the same story takes place in the examples in (b'), (c, c'), and (d, d') where the LV refers to the process inherent nature of the event and the prepositional elements provide the event type or subtypes.

In the fifth pair, however, the LV refers to the endpoint or terminative phase of the event but the role of the preverbal element is the same as the other four examples mentioned above. That is, the preposition-preposition combination *dær bær* 'in on/over' (in (e)) with the two state locative prepositions *dær* 'in' and *bær* 'on/over' implies the 'surrounding' event i.e. it indicates that '*something takes in and over something else*', which is the same meaning of 'surround'. In addition, the preposition-N combination *dær dæst* 'in hand' in (e') with the same state locative preposition (*dær* 'in') and the concrete noun (*dæst* 'hand') implies '*having (the control of something) in one's hand*' which shows the type of the main event of the whole prepositional LVC.

In conclusion, in all the examples presented in Table (2) above, the light verb provides the information regarding the phase of an event while the preverbal-prepositional elements play the role of determining the event type of the whole construction. As mentioned above, the combination of the two locative prepositions *æz bær* 'from on/over' in (a), for instance, implies the 'memorizing' event type. By taking a careful look at the glossary of the prepositional LVCs in Table (2) it becomes clear that the same is true for all the prepositional nuclear junctures i.e. the preverbal-prepositional constituents determine the event type or attribute and the light verbs refer to particular phases of events and are in fact bleached with regard to the event type. Even though in such prepositional NJs as *æz bær daštæn* 'know by heart' (Lit.: 'from on/over have') (presented in Table (2)) with the non-phase verb *daštæn* 'have' the light verb denotes state or attribute and does not refer to a particular phase of an event, the prepositional elements provide the event type and the light verb is bleached in this respect. As a matter of fact, the findings of this paper are in close affinity with that of the adjectival NJs in Saeedi (2009b).

4. **Constructional Schema of Prepositional NJs**

According to RRG, if two nuclei share the same nuclear operator and are structurally independent, the nexus-juncture linkage type of the construction is nuclear co-subordination. The prepositional LVCs in Persian, as presented in (6) and Figure (4) below, belong to this linkage type.

- (6) *seyl hæme-ye šæhr-ra dær bær næ-gereft.*
 flood all/whole-Ez city-DOM in on/over Neg.Op.-take.Past.3rd.Sg.
 'The flood did not surround the whole city.'

As demonstrated in the Figure (4), the two NUC nodes are structurally independent while sharing the negation nuclear operator *næ-* which is attached to the verbal element in Persian. This indicates that the linkage type of the prepositional LVCs is nuclear co-subordination.

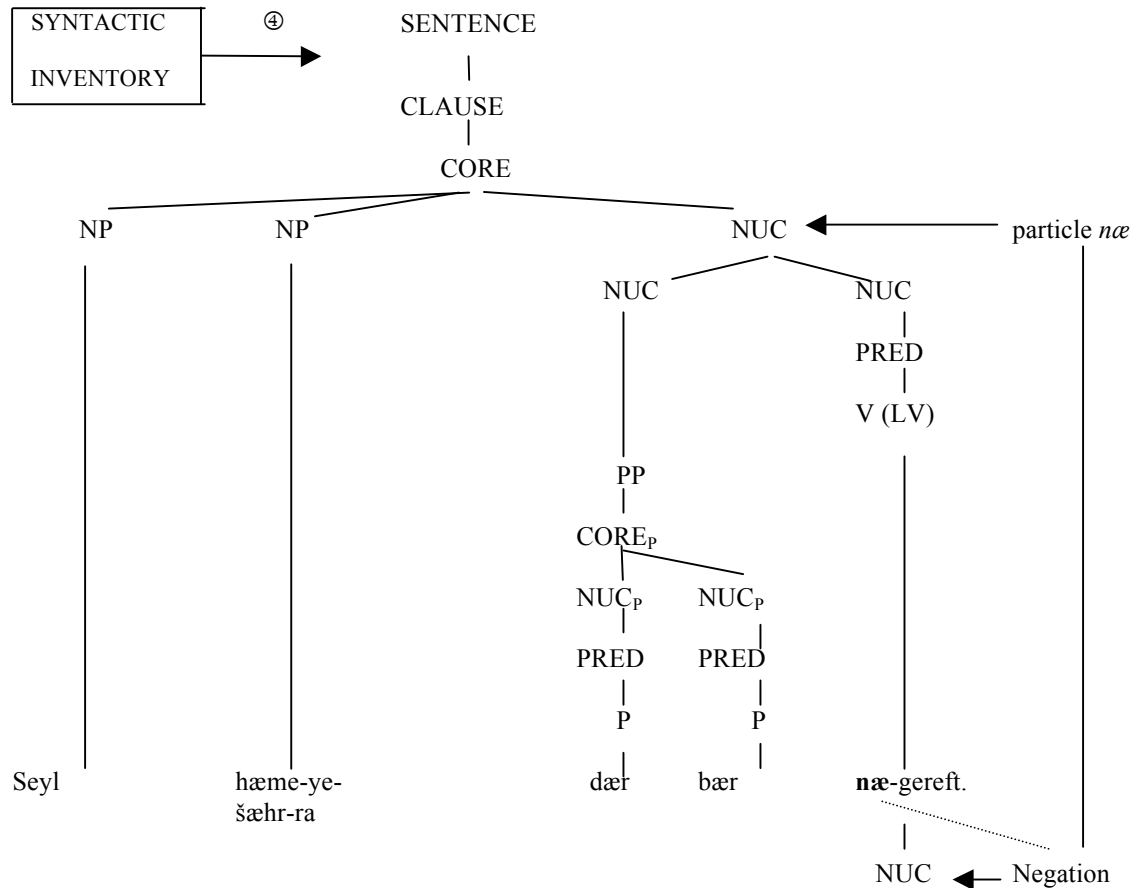


Figure 4: Operator sharing in Persian prepositional NJs

Now that we have determined the nexus-juncture linkage of these constructions, the constructional schema of the prepositional nuclear junctures can be schematized:

Construction: Persian prepositional nuclear juncture

SYNTAX:

Juncture: nuclear

Nexus: cosubordination

Construction type: light verbal (prepositional phrase + light verb)

[_{CL} [_{CORE} NP [_{NUC} [_{NUC} ...Prep.phrase] [_{NUC} ...V(LV)]] NP ...] ...]

Unit template(s): (3.6) (see section (3.4.4.1) in chapter three)

PSA: none

Linking: default

MORPHOLOGY:

PRED_{NUC1}: Prepositional Elements: either (Prep. + Prep.) or (Prep. + NP)

PRED_{NUC2}: light verb: majority of phase verbs and one non-phase verb ('have')

[LV: [**predicate'** (x) or (x, y)] + ADV]

[LV: [**do'** (x, **predicate'** (x) or (x, y)) + ADV]

[LV: [INGR **predicate'** (x) or (x, y)] + PP]

[LV: [BECOME **predicate'** (x) or (x, y)] + PP]

SEMANTICS: [PRED_{NUC1}]... + ... [PRED_{NUC2}]

PRAGMATICS:

Illocutionary force: unspecified

Focus structure: unspecified

Table 5: Constructional schema for Persian Prepositional nuclear junctures

According to RRG, such constructional schemas as the one presented above for Persian prepositional LVCs provide a detailed representation of the morphological, syntactic, semantic, and pragmatic features.

5. Conclusion

The findings of the present paper on the prepositional LVCs have revealed that the preverbal-prepositional elements occurring in these constructions belong to the stative and directional (source, path, and goal) locative prepositions and can be of two types i.e. the combination of two prepositions or a preposition and a noun. It also emerged that consistent with the adjectival NJs (Saeedi 2009b) the verbal elements in these LVCs belong to the 'phase' class of verbs referring to particular phases of events and that the prepositional elements provide the information regarding the locative stative and directional event type or attribute. In other words, the light verbs are bleached with regard to the event type i.e. they do not provide the information on what type of event the whole construction corresponds. We also found one example of a non-phase verb, the state/attribute verb *dæštæn* 'have', which is capable of forming nuclear junctures with the prepositional elements. The prepositional LVCs, as demonstrated in this paper correspond to the nuclear co-subordination linkage type.

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